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COMMENT OF  
THE DAY

The New RAF

At last Britain is beginning to see the RAF of the future that it has been getting brief and intriguing glimpses of since 1948. Delta wing all-weather Javelin fighters and Vulcan heavy bombers are coming into service in the United Kingdom. They are joining Hunters and Valiants which began squadron duties last year.

It has been a long and anxious eight years' wait for them and the miracle is that while they may be by drawing board standards obsolete, they are not by flying standards obsolete, despite the tremendous pace of aircraft development. At any rate, they are a good deal more modern and efficient than the Meteors, Vampires and the piston-engined reliefs that pass as bombers and are still in squadron service.

Unfortunately modernisation is coming only in trickles. Aircraft deliveries, according to the Ministry of Supply, will be slower than was originally planned. This follows cancellation of orders for the Swift fighter, the reorganising of the programme for production of Javelins and unexpectedly long "last minute adjustments" to aircraft almost ready for delivery to the service.

THE Government points out that production has risen two and a half times since 1951. It also says that Britain can "develop" an aircraft as quickly as America. If this is so, people may justifiably ask why some new British aircraft are as much as three years behind comparable American types. And if the bottleneck is in the production line then quite obviously the pleasing increase that has taken place in output is not enough.

Ultimately, because British resources in the aircraft industry cannot possibly measure up to those of America's or Russia's, a way will have to be found around the existing system whereby 10 or 15 makers cling tenaciously to their pet projects, each claiming to have the answer to the RAF's special problems.

IN all fairness they should admit that very few of the spate of postwar designs have made the grade. It is also a pity that some companies have produced some really good aircraft and are stymied by their inability to produce in the quantities desired.

Probably the best answer is as the economists would say "to rationalise resources"—or to put it in a non-technical way, for various groups of companies to merge their productive capacities and their design rooms as the motor car industry has done. Demand will then dictate which designs or models are most useful for the job in hand. This seems to be about the only fair way of cutting the seven-year time lag between the drawing board plan and the finished article which has bedevilled the RAF's modernisation programme up to now.

SPORTSMEN TELL....

George Whiting returns to the feature pages of the Saturday Mail with a new series for sportsmen about sportsmen—"The greatest day of their lives".

In tomorrow's Mail, he interviews England Soccer captain, Billy Wright who tells about the day he nearly got the sack. Don't miss this super series beginning in tomorrow's feature packed edition of the China Mail. And this is only one highlight. Watch out also for these:

- ★ A match-making correspondent gives lonely spinsters some good leap-year advice—She consoles them with the thought that every bachelor has an Achilles heel.
- ★ Les Armour writes on the fiery rebel of the Socialist Party—Nye Bevan.
- ★ Giles, Cummings and Low (just back from a tiger hunt in India) provide three brilliant cartoons.

There are all your regular favourites as well including Jane Roberts' reviews of the latest films showing in Hongkong, three pages of local and overseas pictures, as well as news for women, children and sportsmen. There are also comic strips and puzzles, crosswords and the tips for tomorrow's meeting at the Valley—all in the China Mail.

VATICAN MAY SEEK UN MEMBERSHIP

Railway Disaster: 5 Killed, Many Injured

Bern, Maryland, Feb. 23. The Pennsylvania Railroad's Washington to New York passenger train, the Embury, was derailed here today. The police said there were at least five known dead and possibly 50 or more injured.

Maryland State police said five persons had been pronounced dead. They said workmen with acetylene torches were searching the wreckage for additional bodies but did not expect the toll to go much higher.

Police put the injury figure at 25 to 30. But South Baltimore General Hospital said it had received about 20 injured from the wreck, some "very badly" hurt.

The Fort Meade Army Hospital, situated near here, said 25 to 30 additional injured were being cared for there. A Maryland police trooper described the scene as "hellish".—United Press.

Stormy Time Ahead For Dulles

Washington, Feb. 23. Critical senators will closely question Mr John Foster Dulles, the Secretary of State, tomorrow about the "on-again, off-again" shipment of tanks to Saudi Arabia, and other recent foreign policy developments.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to ask Mr Dulles how the State Department and the White House came to release the 18 tanks, to cancel the release, and then cancel the cancellation two days later.

Mr Dulles, on returning from an ocean fishing vacation yesterday, astonished Washington officials by stating that he had heard nothing of the furore over the tanks until he landed at Miami.

Senators are also expected to question the Secretary of State about other international controversies which they say he has recently aroused, frequently in carefully prepared statements, at the rate of almost one a month.

The senators were expected to take the opportunity of their first interview with Mr Dulles about his controversial interview in Life magazine last January in which he expounded the "art" of manoeuvring on the "verge of war".

They will also recall his statement in referred to disputed Goa as a "province" of Portugal, and aroused a storm of protest in India.

HOOVER TO ATTEND

They will also probably criticise the administration of the State Department during Mr Dulles' frequent absences at international conferences or inaccessible vacation spots.

They have invited to tomorrow's hearing Mr Herbert Hoover, junior, the Under-Secretary of State, who acted as Secretary of State during Mr Dulles' absence at the time of the tank shipment and other controversies.

Meanwhile, three other congressional committees have shown signs they may call Mr Dulles or officials of his department to face criticisms.

The Senate Government Operations Committee has criticised the reluctance of the State Department to disclose details of agreements made after the relaxation of restrictions on free world trade with Communist China.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, who say they were not consulted about the tank shipment, are demanding that Mr Dulles appear before them.

Strong Support Certain

New York, Feb. 23. Intense interest was shown in United Nations circles tonight in the hint in Rome that the Vatican would like to become a full member of the world organisation.

The United Nations charter provides that membership is open to all "peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present charter and, in the judgment of the organisation, are able and willing to carry out these obligations."

Any move to pave the way to admit the Vatican could count on wide support among the present membership, observers believed. They noted that the Roman Catholic Church is the predominant religious group in about 30 of the 76 countries now represented in the United Nations, and in several others. Catholics are a politically important minority.

VETO UNLIKELY

Any bid to seat the Vatican could expect opposition from the Communist countries, observers said, but they speculated whether the Soviet Union would go so far as using its veto in the Security Council because of the world-wide reaction this would produce.

The Security Council in which all five big powers have the veto right, must recommend a candidate before the general assembly can vote on admission. The applications are now pending. They include Japan and Outer Mongolia.—Reuter.

Rome As Venue For Assembly?

United Nations, Feb. 23. The possibility of holding next autumn's General Assembly session in Rome to avoid the presidential election was discussed today by two of the United Nations' most powerful groups.

Sixteen of the 18 Western European countries met privately in an informal session to discuss "problems of mutual interest." A spokesman said the possibility of switching the 1956 Assembly session to the Italian capital was debated, but no firm decision was taken pending consultations with the home governments.

The Italian Ambassador, Alberto Casardi, attended the European caucus, but was understood not to have offered a firm invitation to hold the Assembly session in Rome.

The Arab-Asian-African group whose 24 members constitute the strongest bloc in the UN, discussed the issue at the same time the Europeans were meeting. Like the Europeans, they reached no decision on a Rome meeting pending instructions from their capitals.

OPPOSE MOVE

The proposed shifting of the 1956 Assembly to Rome has been discussed informally in the UN since even before Italy was elected to membership.

The Secretary-General Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, opposed any move from New York on the basis of economy and time required for the transfer of UN activities. However, there has been a lot of world-wide or ganglion's 70 members by his office. (Cont'd. on back page, Col. 2)

Radford Says... To Run Or Not To Run



US Civil Defences Inadequate

Washington, Feb. 23. Adm. Arthur W. Radford told Congress today that the nation's civil defences are inadequate to deal with an atomic attack.

Admiral Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said "probably none" of the 50 major US population centres have an effective civil defence system "at this time."

He said there appears to be confusion about just what was to be done in such an emergency. He warned that it is unlikely a master plan can be developed without strong Federal leadership.

Admiral Radford made the statements in testimony before a House Military Operations Sub-committee which is studying legislation to create a civilian defence agency in the Defence Department.

The Admiral opposed giving the responsibility to the Defence Department because its main function is to defeat the enemy in case of civil defence. The new is handled by the Independent Civil Defence Administration.

But he urged strong Federal leadership. He said the present Federal organisation is not adequate.

He said the Federal Government primarily because it has had to depend on the voluntary co-operation of State agencies.

In arguing against the Defence Department taking over the job, Admiral Radford emphasised its primary military mission.—United Press.

He said he was given a vice-presidential election was discussed today by two of the United Nations' most powerful groups.

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IKE KEEPS MUM

New York, Feb. 23. President Eisenhower's press secretary, James Hagerty, today assured reporters that the President had told no one in Washington whether he would run for second term.

Mr Hagerty, who is with Mr Eisenhower on holiday in Georgia, was reminded at a press conference of a report yesterday which said the President had told associates in Washington he would next week announce his decision to stand again.

The press secretary today declared that he knew for a fact the President had not passed on his answer to any associate in the capital.

But Mr Hagerty did not rule out the possibility that he himself, and Mr George Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury, who is Mr Eisenhower's holiday host, might know the answer.—Reuter.

Tass Workers Are Spies

Washington, Feb. 23. A former Red Army intelligence officer testified today that the Soviet news agency Tass is a cover for espionage and that 80 per cent of its workers are spies.

Mr. Jamail, Ege, who defected from Communism in 1942, also told the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee that more Soviet officials would flee to the West if the U.S. freed them, better, helped them get jobs and quick citizenship.

Ege said he was head of the technical espionage for the Red Army General Staff when he was sent to Germany in 1941. He said he was given a vice-presidential election was discussed today by two of the United Nations' most powerful groups.

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SEDITIONOUS PLOT AGAINST CHILEAN GOVT REVEALED

Santiago, Chile, Feb. 23. Discovery of a nationwide seditious plot led by the powerful United Labour Central against the government's anti-inflationary policy was announced officially today.

Details of the plot were found on Manuel Collao, second in command of the Labour Central, when he was arrested on charges of inciting a political general strike last month, the political police announced.

Clotario Blest, head of the Labour Central, and about 50 other union leaders have been arrested and banished to isolated places where they are allowed limited freedom.

The Labour Central had demanded for a long time that the government of President Carlos Ibanez take effective steps to combat the high cost of living. Yet, according to police announcement, it was about to launch a nationwide campaign of labour stoppages, public demonstrations and social agitation against President Ibanez' anti-inflationary programme, approved by Congress early this month.

Discovery of the plot was believed to dash any hopes for the early lifting of the state of siege or modified martial law proclaimed by the government on the eve of the abortive January 9 general strike.

'Policy Of Hunger' The state of siege empowers the government to arrest and banish any person deemed dangerous, without benefit of trial.

The Labour Central has described the Ibanez anti-inflationary programme as a 'policy of hunger'. It objects chiefly to its provision limiting mandatory pay raises of government employees, including the armed forces, to 50 per cent of the increase in the cost of living during the previous year. Prior to adoption of the Ibanez programme, pay increases equal to the rise in the cost of living were mandatory.

The Labour Central secretary-general, Baudilio Csanseva, who was next in line to head the organisation after the arrest of Blest and Collao, has gone into hiding. The police are actively searching for him and 13 others.—United Press.

Galilee Shooting

Tel-Aviv, Feb. 23. Israel today claimed that Syrians have shot at Israeli fishermen on the sea of Galilee twice in the last 12 hours.

An Israeli army spokesman said the fishermen had to bring in their boats.—France-Press.

BOY CONFESSES TO MURDER

New York, Feb. 23. Thomas Williams, one of the 14-year-old twin brothers accused of bludgeoning a cub scout to death has confessed to the crime, his attorney announced today.

Defence Attorney William Callahan said Thomas gave him a "full statement" last night and completely exonerated his identical twin brother, Joseph.

Callahan declared Tommy "just up and told us" and "said he didn't know why he did it." Mental examinations and appointment of two examiners were approved by Ohio County Court this afternoon at the request of the county prosecutor.

The boys were arrested on Feb. 11 on charges of slaying nine-year-old David Powell, whose battered body was found the previous day under a porch of the Williams' Wheeling Island home. Indicted last Friday on murder charges, the boys were arraigned this morning and an April 2 trial date was set.

The twins were linked to the slaying by a pearl-handled pocket knife found under the body and a pair of blood-stained dungarees and a cap found in their home. Police said all three articles belonged to Tommy.

The boys are seventh graders in the Addison School here and lived about one block from the victim's home.

The cub-scout was beaten with a two-by-four board and he died of a split skull. His chest and throat also bore stab wounds.

The brothers had maintained innocence since their arrest. When confronted with the stained overalls, Tommy told police he had spilled catsup from a sandwich. Later he said the stains were from pigeon blood, and finally changed his story to claim he had suffered a nose bleed.

If convicted of first-degree murder, the boy faces a possible death penalty.—United Press.

Man Frozen To Tree Trunk

Lille, Feb. 23. A 35-year-old Algerian worker, Mohammed Madjine, today was in a critical condition following an amputation of his four limbs, after a harrowing 48 hours during which he was frozen to a tree by the icy weather.

Madjine was found by friends with his arms about a tree trunk, his clothes frozen to the bark and his feet congealed in a block of ice and snow.

It was believed that he had been suddenly taken ill during a storm in 20 below zero Centigrade weather.

Madjine himself was still delirious and could not explain his misfortune. He was taken to Moulvaux Hospital, where his arms and legs had to be amputated.—France-Press.

Cold Kills Cats

Berlin, Feb. 23. Several thousand cats have died from cold and hunger as a result of the "big freeze" in Berlin, where temperatures fell last night to 20 degrees below zero Centigrade (minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit).

At the request of the "Society of Friends of Cats" 250 Berlin alley cats were painlessly put to death today. They had their heads and paws frozen while leashes were hanging from their jaws.

On the frozen Baltic, off the coast of East Germany, thousands of herons, wild geese and swans have massed on the ice, where they are being gradually decimated by the cold.—France-Press.

Reaches Montevideo

Montevideo, Feb. 23. The British sealer Theron which is bringing the leaders of the Commonwealth transatlantic expedition's advance party back to Britain arrived in Montevideo today.—Reuter.



Fashion takes a long-bodied line, and it's definitely yours with these! A tapered torso, gently smoothed. A high bustline, lifted by Whiproll stitching with supple padded wire under each cup. Velvour straps for superb comfort. Beautifully yours in nylon lace, black over pink. B and C cups, 32-40, with beautifully matched garter belt. Size S. M. L.

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HAPPINESS WILL BE YOURS!  
LOVE WILL LEAP INTO YOUR HEART!  
MISS JENNIFER JONES, THE ACADEMY AWARD  
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IN PERSPECTA, DIRECTIONAL STEREOPHONIC SOUND!  
DORIS DAY • JAMES CAGNEY  
Love Me Or Leave Me  
COLOR BY CINEMASCOPE

# DISTURBING SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST

## AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE 'FULLER KNOWLEDGE'

### Australian Flood Damage



Pictured is some of the wreckage left after floodwaters undermined the rock foundations of houses which crashed into Sydney harbour at Sutherland during recent floods sweeping across large areas of Australia. Only one person has been reported to have lost his life in the floods, but damage is believed to run into millions of pounds.—Express Photo.

## Technical Problems Of 5-Year Plan

Paris, Feb. 23.  
The Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow today discussed technical problems which lie ahead of the new Soviet five-year plan, the Soviet Tass news agency reported.  
Vice-Premier Viacheslav Malyshev, a top Soviet technical expert, called for increased use of science to step up the nation's economic growth. He urged the use of modern methods to boost output and curtail production costs.

Mr. Malyshev attacked Soviet engineers for refusing to keep pace with scientific discoveries thereby causing "technical stagnation" in several branches of Soviet industry. The use of modern methods could save the Soviet Union several hundred million roubles, Malyshev said.

Economic planning chief, Mr. Alexei Kusygin, urged that priority should be given to heavy industry output.

Vice-Premier Nikolai Baibakov, called for an increase in worker efficiency during the new plan. He said a one per cent boost in efficiency could save the Soviet Union 10 milliards of roubles by 1960 when the plan ends.

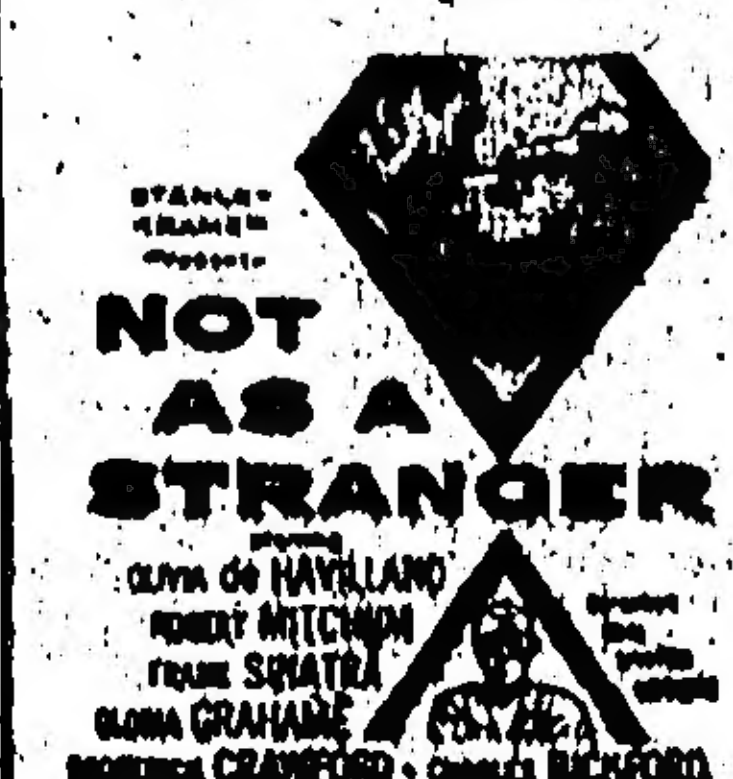
Communications Minister Boris Beshtchev said the Soviet Union will have 5,000 miles of electric railways by 1960, including links between Moscow, the Ural Mountains and Siberia.

Mr. Beshtchev lauded Soviet Party Chief, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, for "barring the faults of the Communications Ministry."

Mr. Beshtchev pledged he would do his utmost to remedy these faults during the five-year plan.—France-Press.

## MAJESTIC

SHOWING TO-DAY  
At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.



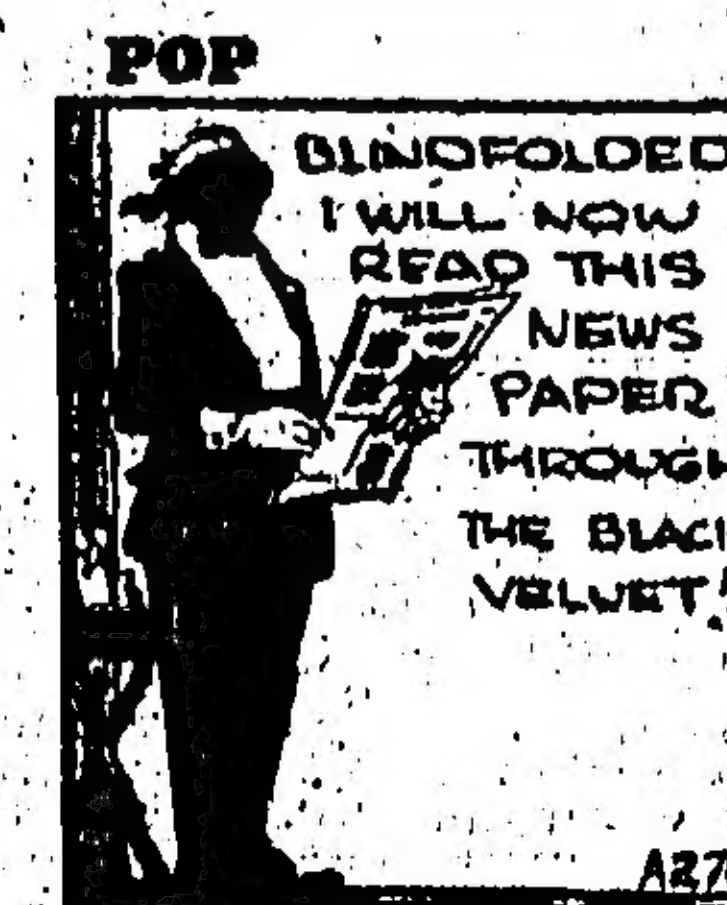
## PIG HOLDS UP TRAFFIC

Johannesburg, Feb. 23.  
A pig, which fell from a farmer's lorry and went to sleep in the centre of a busy crossing, disrupted traffic for three hours in Johannesburg. No one liked to move it.  
An anxious farmer finally collected the pig by car.—China Mail Special.

## Afro-Asians Meet On West N. Guinea

New York, Feb. 23.  
Asian and African delegates at the United Nations met privately today to hear a report from Indonesia on the breakdown in its negotiations with the Netherlands on mutual problems including that of West New Guinea.

Mr. Thanat Khoman, of Thailand, chairman of the 23-state group, told correspondents afterwards that no decision was reached on any action which might be taken regarding West New Guinea.  
"It was just to keep members of the group informed of the situation," he said.—Reuter.



Washington, Feb. 23.  
The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Walter George, said today that Congress and the American people should have "fuller knowledge" about the "disturbing" situation in the Middle East.

The Georgia Democrat said he hoped his committee could lay the groundwork for establishing a better understanding when it questioned the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, at hearings starting tomorrow.

Senator George discussed the Middle East situation and the events surrounding the disclosure that the US was sending 10 tanks to Saudi Arabia with newsmen before the Senate convened.

"I do feel the situation is disturbing," said Senator George. He added that, while he had not been brought up to date on the most recent developments, he was concerned that the non-Communist world may have lost the initiative for the time being in the fight against world communism.

### Confusion

The Senator said, "there is too much confusion in the mind about what is taking place."

He commented that, like House leaders, he knew nothing about the controversial tank shipment "until I saw it in the papers."

For the good of the country and Congress, as well as the State Department itself, Senator George said, "there should be fuller information given out continuously in this kind of a situation."

The Senator made it clear that he was not trying to make an issue of the incident. He said he did not regard it as evidence of a breakdown in the liaison between Congress and the department on such matters. He said part of the trouble may have been caused by the fact that Mr. Dulles was out of town on what Senator George described as a well-deserved vacation.

"In a political year," he added, "it's hard to do things."

He said, however, that he did not believe the committee would be able to complete its questioning of Mr. Dulles tomorrow afternoon.

### Very Disturbed

He said the questioning would have to go over until Monday unless a Saturday committee session could be arranged.

Senator Hubert Humphrey said he also was "very disturbed by what I consider a deterioration of our foreign policy."

He told the Senate that the Foreign Relations Committee should make the questioning of Mr. Dulles a "searching inquiry." He said he would question the Secretary in "considerable detail."

Senator Humphrey said the Dulles hearing should be opened to the public.—United Press.



Senator George

## News Agency Director Reinstated

Paris, Feb. 23.  
The French government today issued a decree reinstating M. Maurice Negre as Director-General of the semi-official French news agency Agence France-Press, as from September 28, 1954, when he was dismissed from the post.

This follows a decision by the Council of State last month that the "form though not the substance" of M. Negre's dismissal was illegal as he was not given time to "defend" himself. The Council said both his dismissal and the appointment of his successor, 79-year-old Jean Marin, were invalid.

M. Negre said today that he expected to resume his former duties after seeing the Minister of Information, M. Gerard Jaquet, this afternoon. But tonight Agence France-Press announced M. Negre had been fully received by M. Jaquet, who lavished him to "take cognizance" of the reasons for his dismissal.—Reuter.

## IKE ISSUES INVITATIONS

Thomasville, Feb. 23.  
President Dwight Eisenhower has invited Canadian Premier Louis St. Laurent and Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, to visit the United States for joint talks towards the end of March.

Mr. James Hagerty, the President's Press Secretary, who made this announcement today, stated that the talks would be completely informal, and would be about "matters of common interest".—France-Press.

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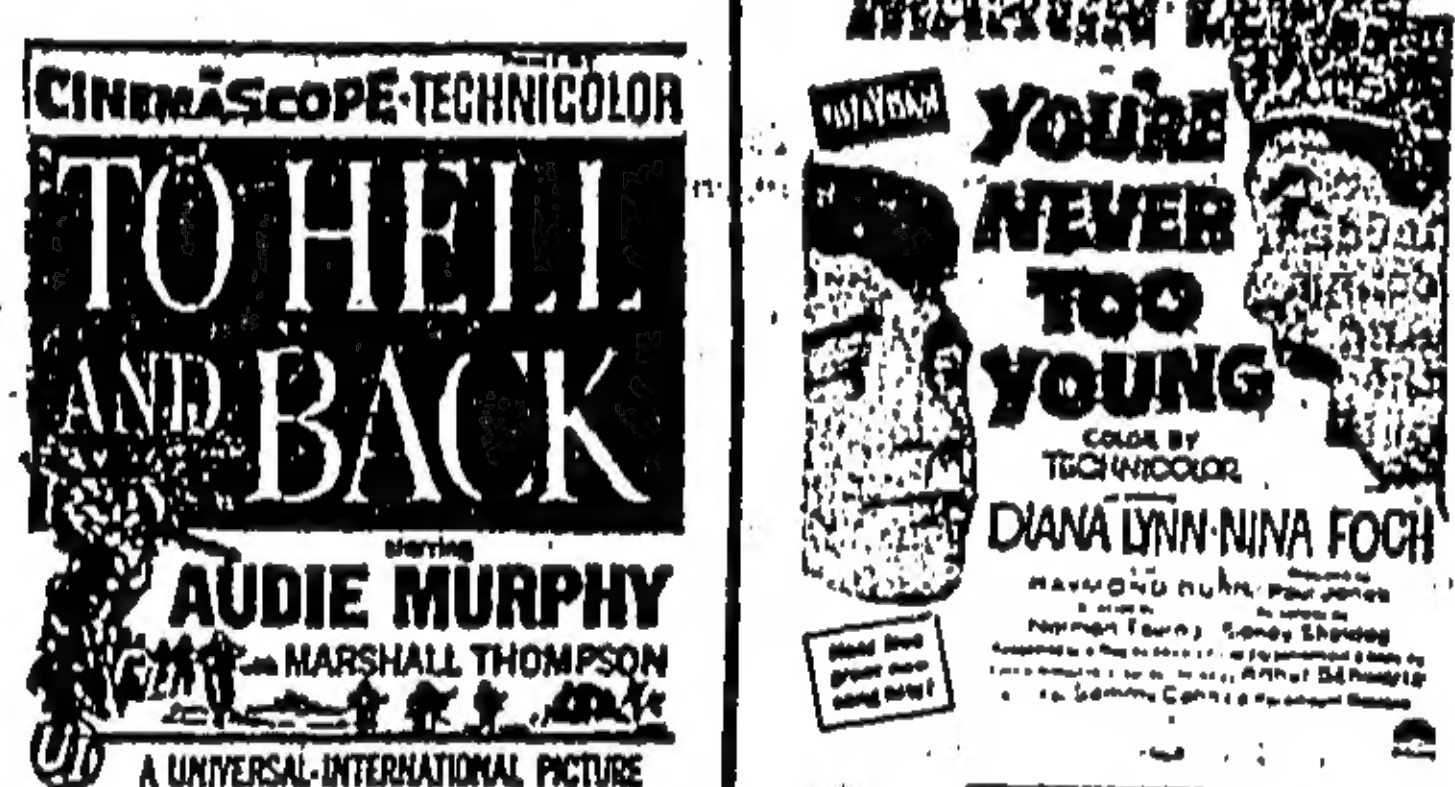
## COMMENCING TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



## CAPITOL RITZ

HELD OVER!  
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



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At 12.30 p.m.  
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# Moch Will Attempt To Reconcile East-West

Former China Missionary Dies In Ireland

Bellevue, Neb., Feb. 23. THE Most Reverend Edward J. Galvin, founder of the Catholic Columbian Missionary Society, died today in Dalgan, Ireland, of leukaemia contracted while he was a prisoner of the Chinese in his diocese of Hanyang, China, the Society's headquarters said.

Bishop Galvin, who was 73, founded the Society in Ireland in 1910 and in 1920 moved its headquarters to Omaha. The final move here was made in 1923.

Ordained at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland in 1909, Father Galvin served as an assistant in Holy Rosary Parish in Brooklyn, New York, until 1912, when he made his first trip to China.

Four Years He remained there four years, then returned to Ireland to found the Order of Foreign Missionaries.

The first group of Columbian missionaries under Father Galvin went to China in 1920 and was located at Hanyang, which is near Hankow in the Yangtze River in central China.

Bishop Galvin's diocese came under Communist rule in 1920 for a short period. The Japanese moved in in 1937 and established the Hankow zone and later mounted a full-scale occupation.

Being a citizen of Ireland, Bishop Galvin was allowed to remain at his post. The priest was visited after the war in 1948 by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York and Archbishop Gerald T. Bergen, of Omaha.

Then the Chinese Communists took over the area systematically expelling Columbian missionaries until only the bishop and five priests remained.

Matter Of Time The bishop himself was expelled in 1952 after three years of house arrest, poor food and constant questioning. When he arrived at Hongkong, indications of leukaemia were discovered. After a series of treatments in the United States proved unsuccessful, he was told that it would only be a matter of time until the disease claimed his life.

The order which he found now has about 650 priests and 200 nuns. Missions are located in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, Vietnam, Formosa and South America.—United Press.

Paris, Feb. 23. French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau disclosed today at a press conference that M. Jules Moch, French delegate to the United Nations Sub-committee on Disarmament, would make a new effort to reconcile British, American and Soviet disarmament plans when the sub-committee meets at the beginning of March.

Turning to the Saar problem, M. Pineau said the question of the political return of the Saar to West Germany could not be separated from economic guarantees for France.

The Foreign Minister indicated that there was a very close relationship between the West German government's reply, expected on March 3, on the question of the canalisation of the Moselle River, and the directive that will be given to the Franco-German experts negotiating the Saar problem.

M. Pineau said that from the mutual point of view, the situation of the Saar remained the same as it was before the recent referendum.

He added, on the other hand, that it would not be realistic not to be taken into account the Saar population's rejection of a European status for the territory.

Referring to the Franco-Moroccan negotiations now underway in Paris, M. Pineau said the question of Moroccan independence and Franco-Moroccan inter-dependence should be linked together. He added that it was not possible for the French government to abrogate the 1912 protectorate treaty for Morocco. Parliamentary legislation would be necessary for such abrogation, M. Pineau said.

M. Pineau said that France strongly desired a conference on the Middle East, similar to the 1954 Geneva conference, on Indo-China. He added, on the other hand, it would be difficult to get Israel and the Arab states around the same table.

M. Pineau said that France's position in the Middle East was a peaceful one. France would, therefore, not encourage any aggression, but would offer her good offices to settle Middle Eastern problems. Asked about the possibility of a trip to the Soviet Union by

Premier Guy Mollet and himself, M. Pineau replied that he could say nothing about this for the time being. He added that he did not want to prejudice the proposals that the Soviet Ambassador to France, Mr. Serge Vinogradov, might make after his return from Moscow.

M. Pineau said he did not think it possible for Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Communist Party First Secretary, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, to stop in Paris on their way to Britain next April.

He thought it was possible the Soviet leaders might come to Paris on another occasion.

M. Pineau also disclosed that he had recently made proposals to the government to intensify cultural relations and cultural exchanges between the East and West.

He said that next Monday the French government would open talks with representatives of the Tunisian government to resolve certain difficulties in carrying out the Franco-Tunisian conventions.

These difficulties were not considerable and arose mainly from differences of interpretation of certain of the terms of the convention, M. Pineau said.

The Tunisian government has also asked to participate in the security measures that France has undertaken in Tunisia, M. Pineau added.

Vietnam Elections

M. Pineau said that France would not reply to proposals from several countries for the reopening of the Geneva conference on Indo-China before the SEATO conference opened in Karachi on March 6. Such a reopening of the Geneva conference would only be useful in the United States and South Vietnam, which were not signatories of the 1954 Geneva agreements, took part, M. Pineau said.

France continues to support the holding of general elections throughout North and South Vietnam in July, 1956 in accordance with the Geneva agreements, M. Pineau said. He added, on the other hand, that France does not possess the material means of imposing the elections upon the country.

As for the March 4 elections in South Vietnam for a constituent assembly, M. Pineau said this was a Vietnamese internal question and France would take no position.

M. Pineau said that while it was necessary to maintain an organisation such as the South-east Asia Treaty Organisation in case of a conflict, the essential problem was not military but economical and social.

Turning to the situation in South Vietnam, M. Pineau said that although recent events in Indo-China had not been completely favourable to France, the French government must respect whatever settlements that are decided upon.

Delicate Problem

He added that he hoped a settlement would be found for the problems of Franco-Vietnam trade before the expiration of the present agreement on February 29.

M. Pineau said the evacuation of the French expatriate corps from South Vietnam, requested by the South Vietnamese Government, would not French military needs.

He added that there still remained the delicate problem of France adding by the withdrawal of its troops to the security in Vietnam—France Press.



Streamlined and ultra-modern in design, to meet the exigencies of the atomic age, is this new Canadian destroyer escort vessel St. Laurent. Picture was taken off the coast of Bermuda—the St. Laurent was heading for Key West, Florida, to undergo exhaustive tests by the US Navy's operational development testing facilities.—Express Photo.

## NO TALENT FOR TRAVEL

Auckland, Feb. 23. Three sophisticated performers at a talent contest in Auckland turned down the first prize of a free air trip to Australia and a theatrical audition in Sydney.

The prize went to a cornet player, who came fourth in the contest.—China Mail Special.

## 'GOOSE STEP' FORBIDDEN

Bonn, Feb. 23.

The "goose step" is forbidden in the new West German Army, according to its training regulations.

They make no mention of the step and forbid the teaching of movements not specified.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said there was no need for the goose step, which had been used largely in parades.

Units of the new army, almost all of them motorised or equipped with tanks, would not march past, but would ride past.

The regulations for basic training lay down that barrack square drill shall take up only five per cent of the three months' course, compared with 30 per cent in the Nazi army, but combat training will take up 50 per cent, compared with 30 per cent in the old army.

Rifle Drill

Only specified units will do rifle drill.

About 100 Defence Ministry officials are still working on new army regulations which will take advantage of the experience of the last war and the Korean and Indo-China wars.

Basic training will be hard, but each recruit will be respected as an individual. Duty and free time will be clearly marked off from one another. Air force regulations will be largely a translation of those in use in the American Air Force. About 250 translators are at present working on this task. Command regulations for all three services are being worked out in consultation with NATO.—China Mail Special.

## Malta Governor To See Lennox-Boyd

London, Feb. 23.

Sir Robert Lennox-Boyd, the Governor of Malta, arrived in London by tonight for talks with Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Governor will report on the position in the "George Cross Island" following the recent referendum there on proposed closer integration with Britain.

Though about three-quarters of the votes cast were in favour of the proposals for integration, only about 55 per cent of the electorate voted.

Sir Robert said the heads of the referendum were not very conclusive, but added: "I still think the Prime Minister, Mr. David Lloyd George, may come to some agreement which is going to be acceptable to the people of the island."—China Mail Special.

## New Canadian Navy Escort Vessel Undergoing Tests



Streamlined and ultra-modern in design, to meet the exigencies of the atomic age, is this new Canadian destroyer escort vessel St. Laurent. Picture was taken off the coast of Bermuda—the St. Laurent was heading for Key West, Florida, to undergo exhaustive tests by the US Navy's operational development testing facilities.—Express Photo.

## ARABIAN SLAVE TRAFFIC Britain Attempting To Stop Traders

London, Feb. 23.

Britain is attempting to halt or curtail slave traffic in the crucial coast area of Southeast Arabia which is under British jurisdiction, British officials said here today.

Britain takes special interest in the slave question because of its commitments in Arabia and the Persian Gulf area, and because British public opinion has been shocked by reports of the slave traffic, officials said.

Britain is not authorised to interfere in the internal affairs of the seven trilateral states. But local chiefs there have agreed to grant free status to any slave who obtains a freedom certificate from the British authorities, British sources said.

The slave trade is flourishing and centres chiefly round Saudi Arabia and the Yemen in the area formerly known as the "pirate coast", sources said.

The slaves reportedly are captured in Central Africa, Ethiopia and Zanzibar by traders, who are often disguised as missionaries.

Open Market

The slaves are then shackled and shipped via the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to the heart of Saudi Arabia, where they are sold on the open market to leading Arabian families.

Authoritative quarters said Britain will continue to prompt more effective anti-slavery amendments to be tacked on to the International Anti-slavery Convention which was signed in 1926.

Britain played an active role in drafting an anti-slavery agreement which will be submitted to the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its session next April, these quarters said.—France-Press.

## POUJADISTS FINED FOR PROCESSION

Lille, Feb. 23.

A Lille court today ordered 12 Poujadist supporters to pay small fines for organising an irregular automobile procession through the streets of Lille during the electoral campaign.

The public prosecutor said public order had been disturbed by the procession of 18 Poujadist vehicles carrying signs supporting the right-wing anti-tax movement of Pierre Poujade, on December 30.

The two chief organisers, Auguste Honore and Albert Labat, who admitted to the charges against them, were fined 20,000 francs each (about \$27).

Another alleged organiser, Rene Esne, who disclaimed responsibility for the rally, was fined 12,000 francs (\$16) and the other nine were fined 5,000 francs (about \$6) each.—France-Press.

## Communist Prestige Increased By Greek Elections

By Charles Ridley

Athens, Feb. 23.

Pro-Western Premier Constantin Karamanlis said today that despite his narrow election victory last Sunday, the Communists "undoubtedly increased their political power, prestige and influence" in Greek affairs.

However, the six-foot, dynamic Premier said, he still hopes to have his National Radical Union Party coalition rule alone for the next four years.

In an exclusive interview with the United Press in his Parliament building office, Mr. Karamanlis spoke freely his views on communism and the future of his government.

The interview with United Press proceeded the Premier's first general news conference since the election.

Prominent Play

It followed a similar exclusive interview yesterday with Mr. Sophocles Venizelos, a leader of the opposition Democratic Union faction, in which he charged that Mr. Karamanlis won the election through "pressure and abuse."

In view of the fact that the Venizelos interview was given prominent play in all Greek newspapers, Mr. Karamanlis was particularly anxious to give his side of the story.

Asked whether he believed the Communists were boosted by the elections, the strikingly handsome Premier fixed his black eyes on the reporter and said in staccato phrases:

"Undoubtedly, the Communists increased their power, prestige and influence as a result of the elections."

"They increased their power tangibly with seats in Parliament."

(The camouflaged Communists in the EDA won 18 seats, and the fellow travelling Working People's Union Party won 19).

Centre Parties Fault

"Numerically, they do not represent a danger, but the improvement of the Communists' moral standing is what counts."

The improvement in Communist prestige and moral influence is entirely the fault of the centre parties of Liberals George Papandreou and Sophocles Venizelos who teamed with the Communists for the purpose of the elections.

"If it were not for this alliance, the Communists would not have gained more than 15 seats and would not have had a lost in the eyes of the electorate—which they got as a result of the centre parties' collaboration."

"However, the majority I got—even though slender—enough for my party to run alone for a full four-year term, as is my intention."

Not A Gift

The State Department spokesman said wheat was not a gift but a private sale between an American seller and an Egyptian buyer.

As the wheat was sold for local currency under United States surplus disposal laws, the State Department's only action was to issue purchase authorization guaranteeing dollars to the American seller.

The department was reimbursed with Egyptian currency.

A spokesman said the State Department was not involved in any conditions laid down by the Egyptian buyer of actual transportation of wheat.—Reuter.

## Singapore Women Energetic

Singapore, Feb. 24.

Mrs. Annam Sivanandran, a member of the Indian Parliament, said here last night that Singapore women were more energetic than women in India.

She said: "Most of the women I have met here are fully engaged in social activities."

Mrs. Sivanandran is on a short visit to Malaya to gain first hand knowledge of the conditions of deck passengers travelling between Indian and Malayan ports. She will submit a report on this to the Indian Ministry of Transport.—Reuter.

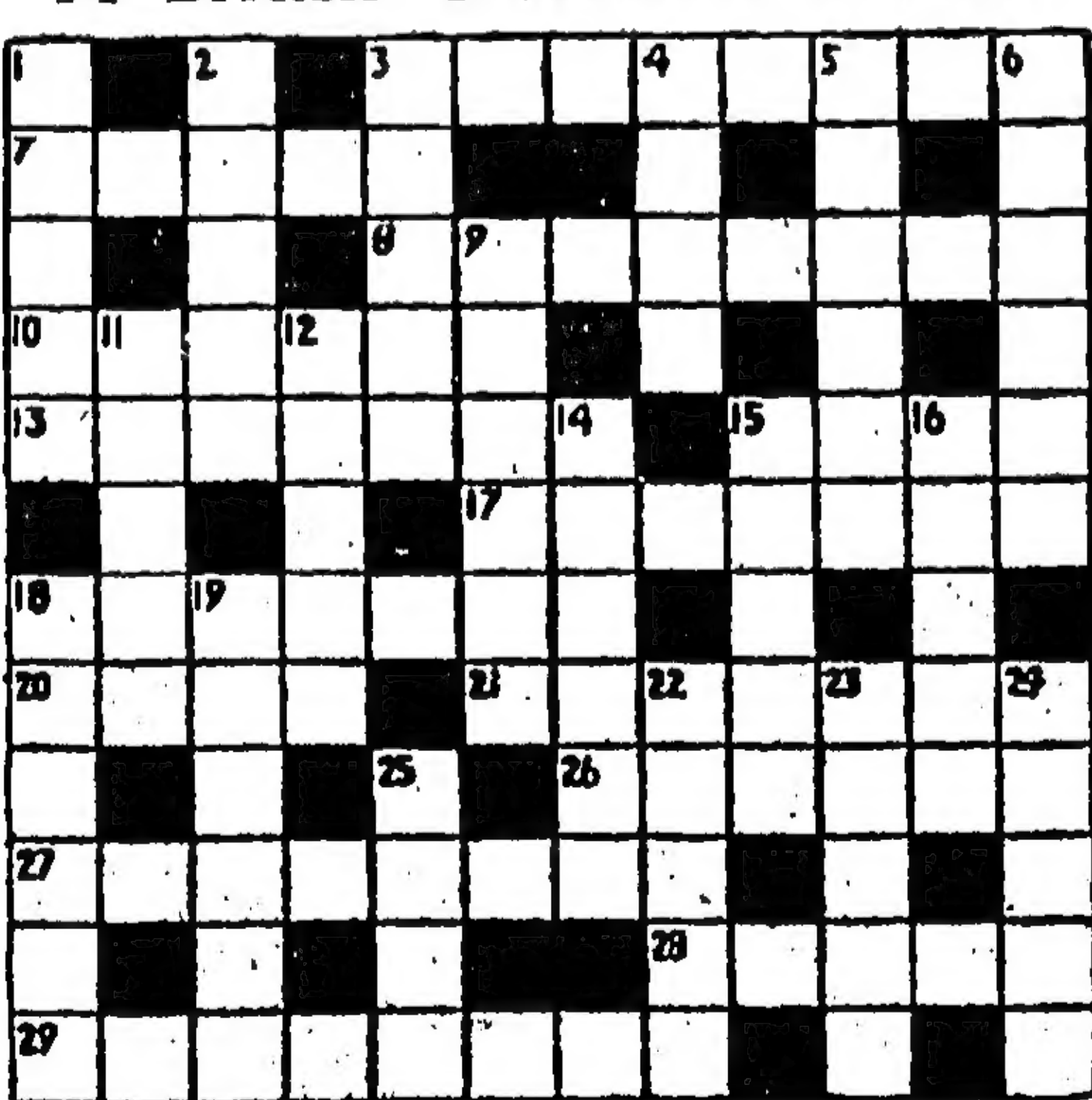
## NORWEGIAN ENVOY TO CHINA

Paris, Feb. 23.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the Chinese People's Republic this afternoon received Mr. Ernest Krogh-Hansen, the first ambassador of Norway to China, the New China news agency reported.

Mr. Chen Biao, Chinese Premier and Foreign Minister, was present at the reception, the agency said.—France-Press.

## A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- 3 Bold (8)
  - 7 Rule (5)
  - 8 Values (6)
  - 10 Unruffled (4)
  - 13 Go before (7)
  - 16 Bird (4)
  - 17 Magazine (7)
  - 18 Sailing meeting (7)
  - 20 Prepare for publication (4)
  - 21 Break away (7)
  - 22 Printing mistakes (6)
  - 27 Height (8)
  - 28 Gloss (5)
  - 29 Intimate (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Clutch (6)
  - 2 Chemical (5)
  - 4 Foolish (6)
  - 5 Regrets (4)
  - 6 Part of an engine (6)
  - 9 Sober (6)
  - 11 Went away (5)
  - 12 Distinction (6)
  - 14 Rubbed out (6)
  - 15 Exclude (5)
  - 18 Man-servant (6)
  - 19 Mena (6)
  - 20 Saddle births (6)
  - 23 Trained (6)
  - 24 Discourage (6)
  - 25 Boss (4)

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Spread, 3 Rabbit, 4 Dived, 5 Annual, 10 Power, 11 Major, 12 Live, 13 Seals, 16 Debit, 18 Teased, 20 Evans, 22 Chap, 23 Steps, 25 India, 26 Easter, 27 Good, 28 Amend, 29 Thesis. Down: 1 Sea-shore, 2 Renowned, 3 Adam, 4 Dilates, 5 Reposed, 6 Address, 7 Ideal, 14 Athletics, 15 Supports, 16 Dashed, 17 Tempest, 18 Assign, 21 Yet, 24 Seal.







## BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

"He looked down his instrument at me," said the conductor of a town band.

What a picture of scorn and contempt. I see the culprit, pointing, his trombone obviously at the conductor and looking along and down it with a curled lip and that wrinkling of the nose which betokens superiority.

Even a flute-player can convey contempt by an insolent glance across his small instrument. The pianist lowers his head over the keys and looks sideways at a dirty old man who puffs three sprouts to give short weight. The violinist's method is to flick the air with his bow after a passage, as though to say, "Take it or leave it." The cellist, head bent, can even put his tongue out rudely, pretending that this schoolboy trick is due to concentration on his playing. An

extra dash with the cymbals can not only ruin the effect of a piece of music but is the classical method of daring defiance of the conductor.

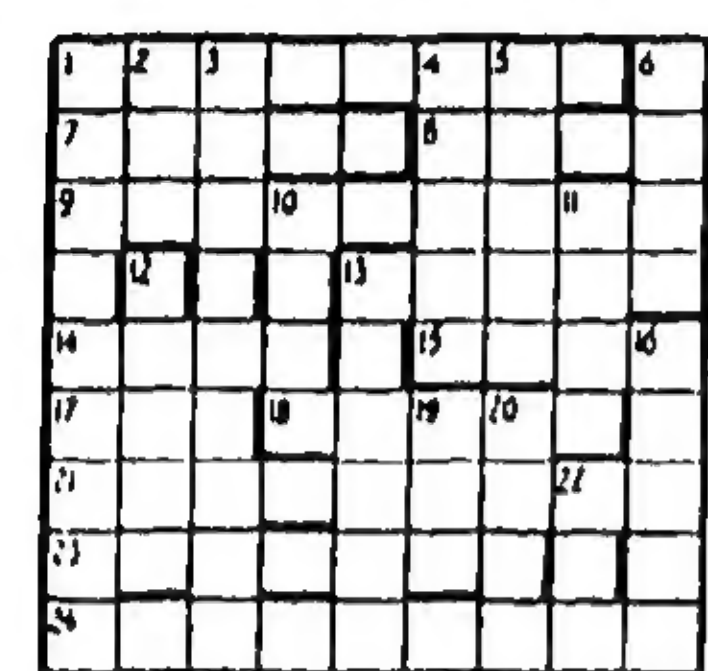
### A complicated ritual

BUN-BORERS, the men who make the holes in buns into which the old currants are fitted, will only consent to bore the under-side of the bun. The upper side is work for the currant pluggers, who are handed the currants by bun-workers. The under-side of the bun is bored by currant-operatives, and if they interfere with the sides of the bun they cause a strike of lateral bun-porters who carry currants intended for the sides of buns. The work of settling the currants into the holes is done by bun-finishers, and unskilled bun-men.

### Who bores holes in fish?

SHOULD the necessary holes in the leather thongs attached to a sheet of cardboard reinforced with zinc be bored by leatherworkers, cardboard workers, zincworkers? The leatherhead strike, even if it does nothing else, will throw a wavering light on this question. There has been no such delicate question since it was decided that the edges of a ticket receptacle on a train must be painted by an edge-painter, not by a receptacle-painter. As for sheets of wood, automation will bring us automatic wood-peckers to bore the holes, the use of which will have been forgotten during a nineteenth-century strike. The holes, when bored, will be filled up again by agreement between the hole-bungers and the filler-uppers after seventeen weeks of negotiation.

## CROSSWORD



### Across

1. Dial pane, (anag.). (8)
2. You may go through this to achieve peace of mind. (5)
3. It's a racketeer in a dashy, minor way. (14)
4. Heavy fire (anag.). (9)
5. Safer. (6)
6. Christopher Bean was on this stage. (4)
7. Explosive mountain. (4)
8. Not at all well. (5)
9. The colour is dim. (5)
10. Man who it's a call for action. (10)
11. Anyone who does this makes himself a fool. (5)
12. Nearly everybody is in a detective story. (10)
13. Cricketers sometimes feel and when returning to them. (9)
14. Here am I. (5)
15. Unquestionably. (9)
16. Give out—of the Army, given out. (5)
17. Cut off. (5)
18. The boxer's last period. (4)
19. Give with a bowler hat, maybe. (5)
20. Have the ointment. (5)
21. Find the horse's home! (5)
22. It's a bit of a puzzle. (5)
23. The number of one eye. (5)
24. It comes into a man's mind about his home and home. (10)
25. One of the Chinese ports. (5)

## TARGET

HOW many words of four letters can you make from the letters in the square on the left, in making each word, the letters in each of the small squares may be used more than once. Each word must contain the large letter in the centre square. No plurals, no foreign words, no proper names. **FOUR LETTERS:** 10 words, good; 19 words, very good; 25 words, excellent. **Solution tomorrow.**

DRH  
OWK  
NIA

## JACOBY ON BRIDGE

### Minor Bid Is Bold Play

By OSWALD JACOBY

A FEW weeks ago this column presented some examples of the "unusual" no-trump overall. Such a bid is usually made at the level of two, especially when it is clear from the earlier bidding that no-trump cannot possibly be an attractive contract.

For example, suppose that an opponent opens the bidding with one spade and that his partner raises to two spades. This is passed around to your partner, who thereupon bids two no-trump. It is very unlikely that your partner really wants to play this hand at no-trump since he merely passed over the opening bid of one spade. Hence his sudden decision to bid two no-trump should show a different kind of hand.

Among expert players, the "unusual" no-trump overall asks partner to choose one of the minor suits. This is a kind of takeout double, except that the emphasis is very strongly on the minor suits. A double would call chiefly for a response in the unbid major.

In today's hand, the "unusual" no-trump bid was made at the level of three. South speculated on the possibility that North might have a long and solid diamond suit together with a

NORTH 27		EAST (D)	
♠ 6		♠ Q983	
♥ 10		♥ J87	
♦ QJ10762		♦ K953	
♣ KQ743		♣ A	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ K1075		♠ J42	
♥ A953		♥ KQ842	
♦ A84		♦ None	
♣ 106		♣ J9852	
East-West vul		North-South vul	
1 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ N.T.	1 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ N.T.
2 ♠ Pass	4 ♠ Pass	2 ♠ Pass	4 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass	5 ♠ Double	3 ♠ Pass	5 ♠ Double
Opening lead—♠ 5			

single stopper in spades. It seemed reasonably safe, however, for South to bid four clubs. If North had support for both minors, the takeout to four clubs was vital. If North had a long solid diamond suit, he would rescue himself at four diamonds.

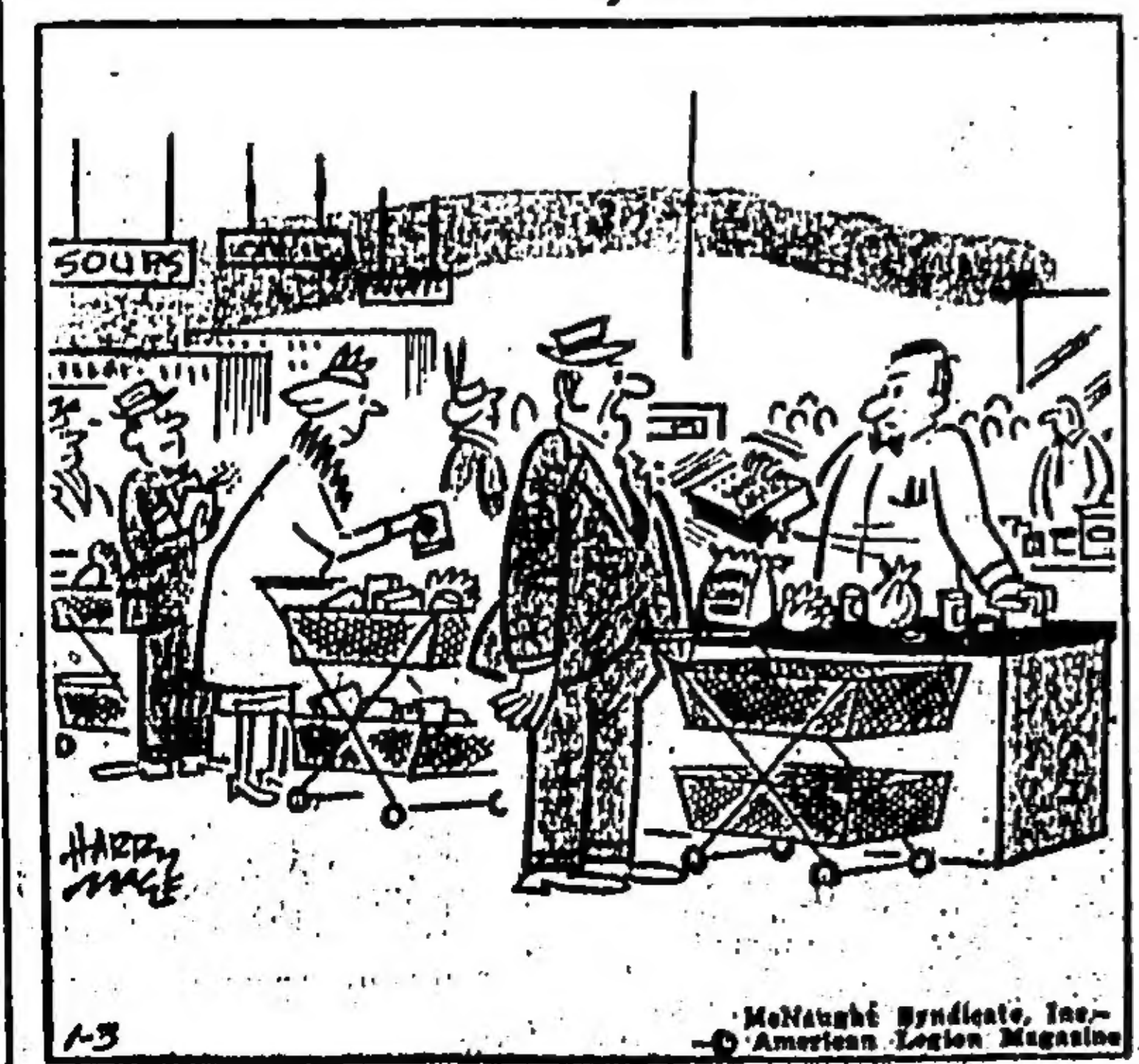
When no rescue occurred, South felt confident that he had made the correct interpretation of his partner's no-trump bid. Hence he pushed boldly on to five clubs as a sacrifice against East's bid of four spades.

The sacrifice was a fine idea. East would have made game and rubber with his bid of four spades, scoring 700 points for the rubber and 120 points for his tricks. At five clubs doubled, South managed to win ten tricks, losing only 100 points. This excellent sacrifice would not have been possible but for North's use of the unusual no-trump overall to invite a bid in a minor suit.

### CARD SENSE

Q—The bidding has been:  
South West North East  
1 Diamond Pass 1 Spade Pass  
2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass  
5 ♠ Pass  
6 ♠ Pass  
7 ♠ Pass  
8 ♠ Pass  
9 ♠ Pass  
10 ♠ Pass  
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96 ♠ Pass  
97 ♠ Pass  
98 ♠ Pass  
99 ♠ Pass  
100 ♠ Pass

## This Funny World



I know they're empty... I ate the stuff while I was waiting in line.

## YOUR BIRTHDAY

By STELLA

PIERCE (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)—If planning a trip, this would be a auspicious day to start on your journey.

ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)—Act speedily on all opportunities offered today if you are to make the best possible progress.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—A fine day for business, especially if you are in retail selling. Make handsome profits now.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—Have a definite objective in view and then follow it through to a successful conclusion.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)—You may be a little more mature than normally today, for the stars are propitious.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—If you will stick to essentials, you will find that you are making marked progress in a definite direction.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Devote the day to sports and outdoor recreation if the weather is fair. Relaxation is what you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—The daytime hours are the best for all.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 23)—Act with reason in whatever you undertake and you will make strides in the stock market.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—One of your excellent days, so combine business and pleasure with extra special good results.

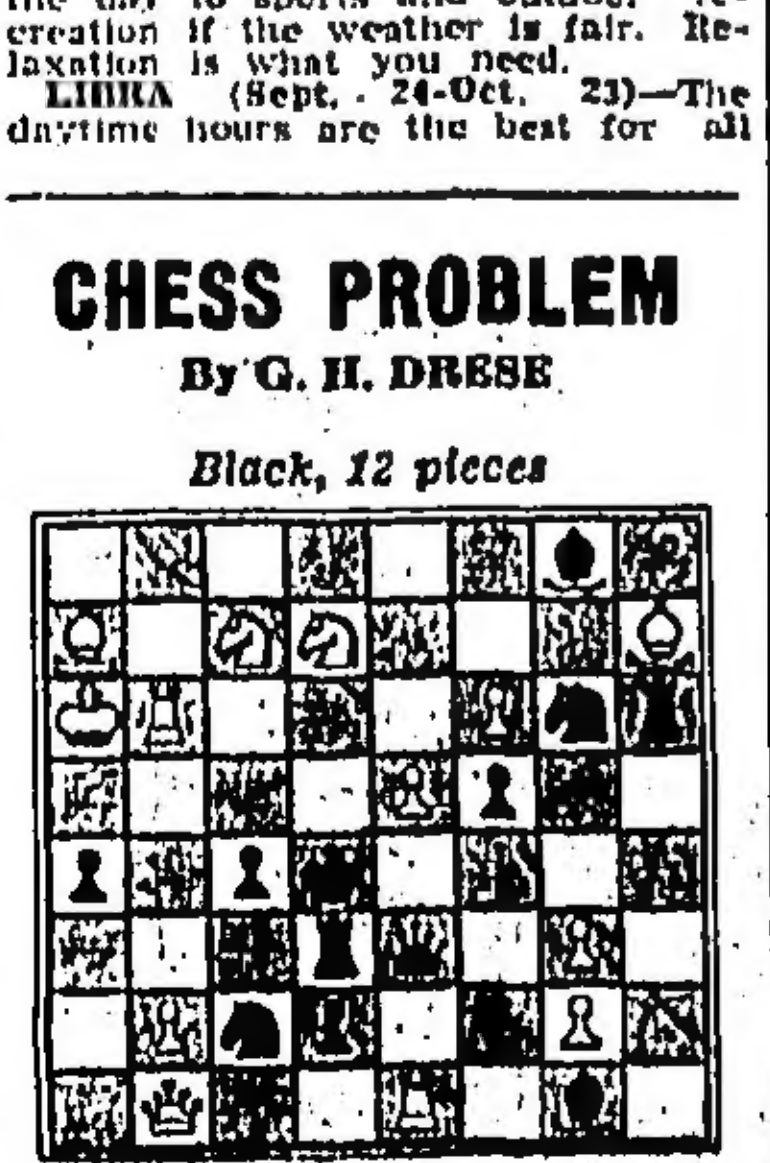
CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—Artistic interest and all professional careers are highly favoured at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—One of these fine days when everything seems to be going your way. Be sure to make progress.

## CHESS PROBLEM

By G. H. DRESE

Black, 12 pieces



White, 13 pieces.  
White to play; mate in three.  
Solution to yesterday's problem:  
1. QxQBP, any; 2. Q, B, or K; mate.

## WOMANSENSE

## The Big Twelve Collections In London Present—Slender Silhouettes For Spring And Summer

By BETTY WILSON

THE London spring line, as these sketches from the collections shown by the twelve members of the Incorporated Society of London Dress Designers indicate, is meant for the tall and slender woman—the woman who watches her weight and somehow contrives to ward off those dandy extra pounds.

She will look wonderful in John Cavanagh's "streak line", in Michael's clean-cut, two-piece, in the pipe stem-straight skirts characteristic of these new streamlined collections, and in suits and topsuits with flying panels which are as arresting as an exclamation mark.

Happily for the shorter woman, especially if she tends to put on weight about the hips, London designers are also showing flared or finely-pleated skirts. Normal waistlines are set against a long torso treatment which sleeks down to cling tightly to the hips.

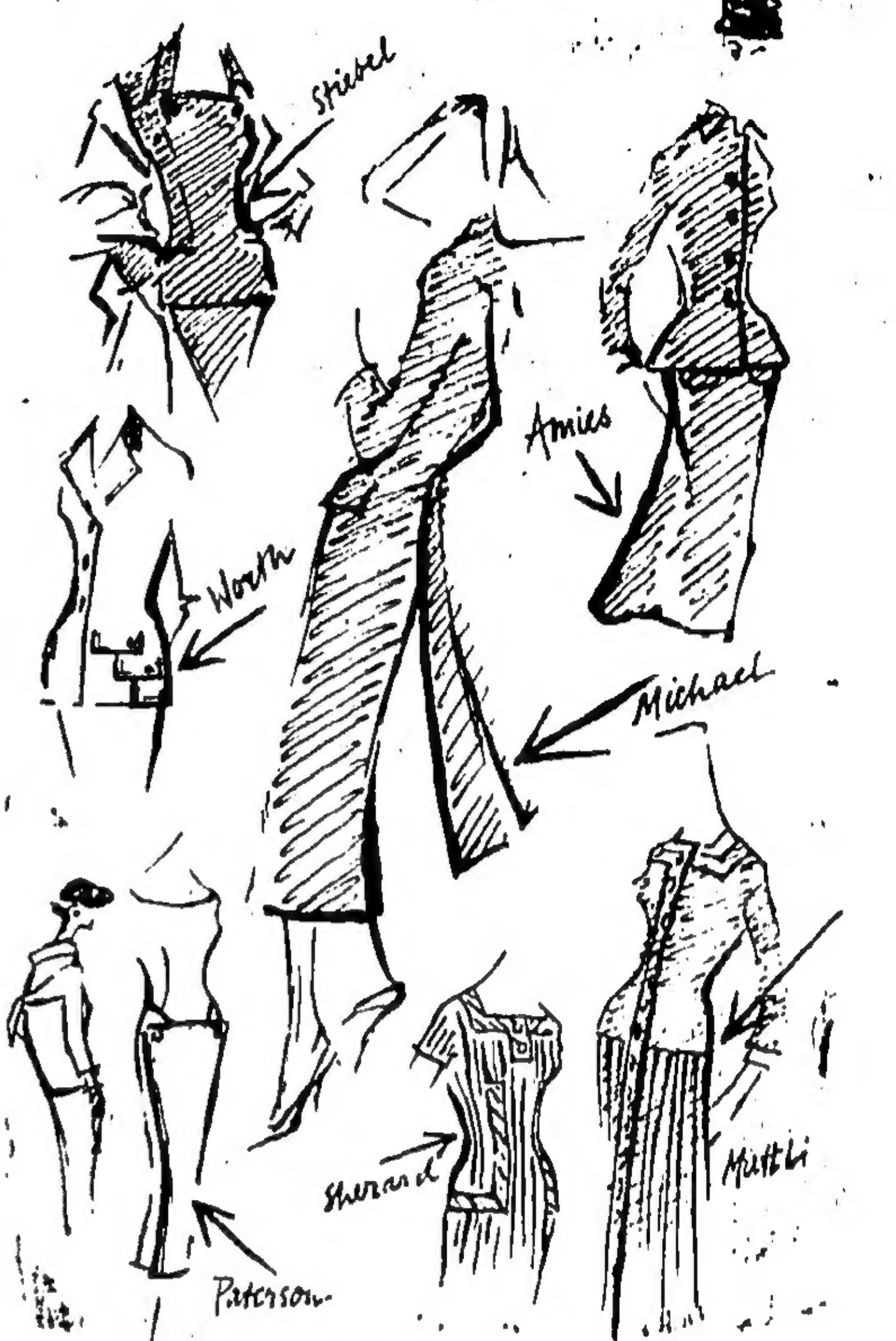
### Casual Chic

There are plenty of these eminently wearable two-pieces, suits and dresses designed with the right kind of understated, casual chic. Yet they are easy to look at and easy to wear.

If these wearable clothes are not sketched and not written about as much as the starker spring silhouettes, it is because wearability is seldom news.

Balanced by much more important hats—three dimensional in their new volume—the predominant London line is as clean-cut and sharp as a sickle.

Details help deceive the eye in hinting at a new effect of drawn-out length. From a relaxed torso line, jackets and



Clean-cut panels flirt out at skirt backs. Diagonal wrap-over treatments, buttoned down, have the same seamed look. Jackets are often placed to attract attention to a lower neckline. In the case of Hardy Amies he removes pockets from his jackets and places them on his skirts, so that they show beneath the lengthened skirt curve of waist into hips.

Michael's navy blue wool fitted redingote is buttoned high. This he shows with a high-necked jacket, with a long line curving down to where the skirt pockets emphasize hip importance. The material is navy blue, tropical worsted, and jacket and pockets are edged with narrow black braid.

Centring the sketch above, Michael's navy blue wool fitted redingote is buttoned high. This he shows with a high-necked jacket, with a long line curving down to where the skirt pockets emphasize hip importance. The material is navy blue, tropical worsted, and jacket and pockets are edged with narrow black braid.

### Pink Dominant

Often yoke or bolero treatment, plus pockets, bands or ties put on at hip-level, suggest a dual line put on above and below a curved, but unbelted, waistline, without breaking a stem-like silhouette. This is, perhaps, the shape of things to come, hinting at an ultimate higher waistline and the return of the Empire look.

The sketches here show some of the highlights from London's twelve top couture collections.

The sketch on the left is centred by John Cavanagh's "streak" prototype dress, which is made in bright pink tweed. The sleeves bodice fits easily, then streaks down to the tightly-fitting hips and into a narrow skirt. It is worn with Simone Mirman's crested hat, which consists only of a wide crushed tulle brim.

Sketched beside it is another bright pink suit—pink is optimistically reflected throughout these collections—made in fine ribbed jersey. Here the relaxed jacket line inches down to fit snugly at the hips and the line is continued in the narrow skirt. A cluster of red cherries dangles from one side of the jacket and is matched by cherry red gloves. The hat is a beret made in the same pink wool jersey as the suit.

Norman Hartnell's ginger nut brown worsted dress is covered by a ginger, brown and white blazer-striped worsted jacket. The vertical stripes emphasise the casual elegance of the jacket, which, again, tightens over the hips. The outfit is worn with a hat, shaped like an inverted basin, with a white brim and ginger nut brown crown.

Scanning underlines the clean curves of Lachasse's suit jacket, which illustrates his new "pipe-line" look. This is made in mushroom-coloured wool. The curving bracket cut of the neck treatment at the back is an interesting talking-point.

Ballless and straight, this short-sleeved dress, shown in the Dierly Morton collection, is worn with a curving jacket cut into a pointed, button-finished wrap-over. The colour is "strawberry mousse pink", the fabric, a rough nubby tweed.

A big pussy-cat bow of polka-dotted silk fills in the reverse of Charles Crevin's sickle-curved dress.

Staggered pocket flaps, set in groups of three on either hip, illustrate a new way to introduce hip interest. Worth adds these pockets to a grey and white wool suit, worn beneath a knuckle-length, wrap-over jacket with a triangle of buttons holding the clean-cut flare of the wrap.

Beautifully-handled and very fine pleating falls in the season's straight lines in Michael's grey and white checked wool dress, which has a white plaque hand inset at the square neckline. A neck-to-bust row of buttons carries on the eye-deceiving line of the narrow pleats.

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## HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Enriched bread and whole wheat bread make important contributions of iron and B-vitamins—thiamine, niacin and riboflavin—to the diet. Bread also provides considerable protein and energy.

Suedes, buckskins and nappy leather shoes should be cleaned with a fairly stiff brush after being treated with liquid suede dressing.

Watch out for "suede brushes" with wire bristles. They often break down the nap of the shoes. An inexpensive

bath sponge will clean the shoes as well as an expensive "suede brush."

When food is fried on a gas range, popping grease often splatters the burners not in use. Pie plates turned upside down over the unlit burners protect them from splashes of grease, and are easily cleaned.

Use an ice cube tray for hardening glue to give uniform pieces. Butter the tray lightly so the partition can be easily removed.

## BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

### Chirpie's Discovery

—He Finds The Crow's Nest Isn't On A Tree—

By MAX TRELL

"WELL," said Chirpie Sparrow to Knarf and Hanid, the shadow-children with the turned-about names, "I'm certainly glad to be home again. Ah, I see you've laid out some nice bread crumbs for me. Thank you very much."

And now Chirpie Sparrow began picking up the crumbs in his beak and swallowing them. But Hanid interrupted. "What was that you were saying about being glad to be home again? Were you away?"

"Was I away?" exclaimed Chirpie. "I never want to get that far away again!"

### Chirpie's Story

It sounded as though Chirpie Sparrow had a story to tell, so Knarf and Hanid said they would like very much to hear it.

"First let me eat my breakfast," said Chirpie. "And then I'll tell it."

So they let Chirpie Sparrow eat his breakfast and then, after he had wiped his beak clean on the stone window sill, he began as follows:

"It all happened on account of those Crows who live down near the Pine Tree Grove. They're very funny birds, those Crows; very funny. They're always flapping about, always shouting 'Caw-Caw' at each other, always playing jokes. But you have to be mighty careful of the jokes they play."

"Now a couple of days ago," Chirpie went on, "I was foolish enough to start talking to them. We all met on a wooden fence and it seemed rude for me not to greet them when they alighted on the fence rail next to me. After a while one of the Crows said to me:

"Chirpie, you've always lived in a pretty small nest, haven't you?"

"Yes, I always have," I told him.

"Well," said the Crow, winking at his friends on the fence rail, "we've got a fine, big crow's-nest that none of our family is using this season. Why don't you go and live in it? It's down at the mouth of the river at the top of a tall, straight tree, called a Mast."

"Never heard of such a tree," I answered.

"The Crows all laughed."

### Very Comfortable

"You'll be very comfortable in that crow's-nest, Chirpie," the first Crow said. "Why don't you spend the night there? If you like it, you can stay there as long as you please. If you don't like it, you can come back to your own nest in the garden in the morning."

"Well," said Chirpie to Knarf and Hanid, "I should have been suspicious at the way all those Crows were nudging each other and chuckling. But instead, I flew down to the mouth of the river and there, sure enough, I found the tall, straight Mast tree they were talking about. And near the very top of the Mast, I found the crow's-nest."

"Was it comfortable, Chirpie?" asked Hanid.

"Oh yes," said Chirpie. "It was big and roomy. Standing on the edge of it, I could see lots of other Mast trees all around. Some of them seemed to be standing far out in the middle of the river. But I liked mine best because it was growing close to the shore. I don't care much for water."

"And what happened?" the two shadows asked anxiously.

### He Fell Asleep

Chirpie said: "It was already dark. I folded my head under my wing and promptly fell asleep."

Chirpie said: "It was already dark. I folded my head under my wing and promptly fell asleep."

### Rupert and the Gold Acorn—15



As before, Rupert is interrupted before he can finish his story. "Ay, it can be none other," cries the woodman. "Kidnapped, say you? My lord Philip is in dire trouble. Come with me," Hestling Rupert through the trees until they reach the edge of the wood.







## SPORTS ROUNDABOUT

## Step Up For Under Twenty-Threes

By W. CAPEL KIRBY

Who plays for England "B" against Scotland "B" at Dundee on February 29? I gather promotion for our bright under-23s is the line the selectors will take when they pick the team.

This could mean forward steps for Reg Matthews (Coventry), Maurice Norman (Spurs), Duncan Edwards, David Pegg (Manchester United), Vic Groves (Arsenal) and John Atkey (Bristol Rovers).

If I have left out centre-half Trevor Smith, of Birmingham, it's only because Joe Kennedy is playing so well for West Bromwich just now.

Also due for discussion in London is the selection of the FA party to tour South Africa next summer.

We need to have fairly strong representation because South Africa conceded only one goal in winning five recent Soccer Tests in Australia. Moreover, it was the only Springbok touring team of any description ever to return unbeaten.

## NICE FOR SWANS

Rumours that John Charles is leaving Leeds were inspired by the Welsh international telling Swansea trainer, Joe Sykes he wouldn't mind assisting the Vetch Field club to promotion.

Similarly I heard Roy Paul remark to a Swansea director:

## WORLD TABLE TENNIS

## Diane Rowe To Partner Haydon In Corbillion Cup

London, Feb. 23.

Diane Rowe, whose married twin sister, Mrs Rosalind Cornett, has temporarily retired from competitive table tennis, will pair with 17-year-old Ann Haydon for the Doubles in the Marce Corbillion Cup in the World Championships in Tokyo in April.

The English pair, both left-handers, have played together only once before—in a last month's international match between England and Wales. They won their game easily.

If their styles continue to blend, Miss Rowe and Miss Haydon will form a strong unit in this event, as Miss Haydon's original partner, Line Werth, of Austria, cannot play. This will give the pair valuable match practice for the Tokyo trip.

At Manchester, Miss Rowe and Miss Haydon have as their main rivals the crack Hungarian pair, Eva Koczian and Gizl Farkas.

Said Miss Rowe today: "As both Ann and I are left-handers, we shall have to concentrate on strengthening our back hands for we can expect our opponents to concentrate on that side of the table."

Miss Haydon was recently added to the England team for the World Championships as a result of her brilliant play last month on a European tour, during which she won both the French and Belgian Singles title. It was then thought that the Rowe twins would play Doubles in the Corbillion Cup team, with Miss Haydon concentrating on the Singles, but the decision earlier this week of Mrs Cornett to retire from table tennis "for personal reasons" caused a revision of plans. — China Mail Special.

## Yolande Pompey To Meet Ward On March 13

London, Feb. 23.

Yolande Pompey (Trinidad), whose World Light-Heavyweight title fight against Archie Moore has been postponed until June, will meet Moses Ward (United States) at Harringay on March 13.

This was the date when Pompey and Moore were to have met.

The fight will be over ten rounds at 12 stone 7 lbs (70.4 kilograms).

Pompey and Ward met in Chicago in 1954 when Ward gained a points decision. — China Mail Special.

"Get in line for promotion and I'll be back." But it doesn't mean his departure from Maine Road is imminent.

On Wednesday, March 14, we sports writers, generously published by Gordon Pirie, will risk doing further immeasurable harm by entertaining Britain's leading sportsman. Here's hoping our guest list meets with approval.

As soon as customary courtesy functions permit, Keith Miller will travel to Nottingham for back treatment from the manipulative fingers of Bill Mellors, former County trainer, who put Ray Lindwall right when the Aussies were last here.

"It's hard enough to get youngsters to bowl fast without penning them," declares Jack Rowley on the subject of "no ball" and "drug." First thing Jack did on arrival with Plymouth at Leicester recently was to buy a new pair of cricket boots. His old ones show signs of drug.

## HART-BREAK

Feeling sorry for yourself this morning? If so, adopt the Johnny Hart spirit. After four operations on a leg broken at Huddersfield last season, the Manchester City inside-forward relishes having a go in the Central League side about Easter.

Doncaster Rovers started something when they invited

## CRICKET

## WI Young Players Not Pulling Their Weight

Kington, Jamaica, Feb. 23.

With the possible exception of Collier Smith, the young players of the West Indies cricket team, now touring New Zealand, are not pulling their weight, according to the cricket correspondent of the Gleaner here.

He deplores the fact that after Everton Weekes made 103 in the recent Test, six wickets went down for 160 because four of the young hopes contributed only 53 among them.

Against stronger opponents the writer fears that the West Indies would not have recovered if they did.

With five of the eight first-class matches of the tour already played, the Gleaner says, there is still much to achieve before West Indies can look forward with more confidence to the tougher tour of 1957, and it was time the younger players lightened up and realised their future responsibilities.

Everton Weekes, who has hit five centuries in succession, needs one more to equal the joint record of six consecutive first-class centuries, held by C. B. Fry (England) and Sir Donald Bradman (Australia). — China Mail Special.

## Contract Bridge

## Matches Between PI And Hongkong

Manila, Feb. 24.

The Philippine Contract Bridge League accepted a challenge by the Hongkong Contract Bridge Association to hold a series of matches here beginning on March 10.

The Philippine team will be selected on a competitive basis under rules promulgated by the Philippine Bridge Association. Preliminary trials will be held to select the best six players to face the Hongkong team. — France-Press.

## Tennis Exhibitions

The Hongkong Lawn Tennis Association announced last night that if the ground is playable today, three exhibition tennis matches will be staged.

Play commences at 8.30 p.m. with Don Fontana (taking on Edwin Tait. At 4.30 p.m. Herb Flam clashes with Ip Koon-hing and then at 6.30 p.m. Flam teams up Fontana against Ip and Tait. — China Mail Special.

Paisley Secondary Juveniles to visit them at Easter. Now seeking a similar invitation are Copland Rangers, who train at Ibrox, and provided Rangers with Robert Mitchell, promising 17-year-old centre-forward.

Harry Johnston's prospects of getting former Blackpool colleague Dave Frith to join him at Reading are not improved by the fullback's devotion to his market-gardening business.

Several Torquay local discoveries are attracting attention in the North and Midlands. One is centre-half George Northcott, whose brother Tommy is with Lincoln City. One first team friendly outing proved him nearly ready for promotion.

Rugby League efforts to wheedle Peter Jackson from the Coventry RU ranks are unlikely to be successful now that an England cap has been placed on the skullduggery three seasons ago.

## LUTON SORRY

I hear Luton are sorry they over-parted with Joe Scott to Middleborough, yet with Peter McEwan around I cannot understand the urgency for a forceful centre-forward.

Can any family beat the sporting Hendersons of Dublin? George is a bodominton international. Brother Noel is a Rugby cap, with his wife, Betty, an international hockey player.

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## Olympic Winter Games Cost Italy \$4,000,000

Says CONRAD ALLEN

The Olympic Winter Games at Cortina cost Italy \$4,000,000. This staggering figure has touched off a big row. Questions will be asked in the House as soon as the Prime Minister comes back from Germany.

The organising committee is accused of extravagance. The flags alone designed by a well-known interior decorator, cost £8,000. The paper on which Press communications were printed was specially made by the costliest mill in the country. Saunas—a kind of Turkish bath—were specially built for the Finnish competitors.

The telephone system installed for the occasion was so elaborate that it was quicker to ring up Tokyo from Cortina than it is to call Florence from Rome.

## FOREIGN TOURISTS

And the number of foreign tourists who came to the area fell far below expectations. Cortina itself was full but all the nearby resorts were practically empty.

So from a national point of view the Games were a total financial loss.

The organisers' answer is that the publicity value of the Games has been enormous and that the profits will show in future years when more foreign tourists will visit Italy's winter resorts. — London Express Service.

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## Dates For 1956 Colony Shuttle Championships

The 1956 Colony Junior Badminton Championships will commence on March 6 and the Senior Championships on March 19. The final night of the championships has been fixed for March 28.

Intending competitors are reminded that entries will close on February 29 for the Junior events and on March 15 for the Senior.

"Arrow" shuttlecocks will be used throughout the Championships. These may be obtained from the agents, Shui Fong-hong, room 223 Wing Hing Building, 10 Queen's Road Central.

## GOLD CUP MARE



Bramble Tudor—pictured here with Dick Curran up—is an entry for the Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 8. Colonel Lord Jockey bought Bramble Tudor from Mr Eric Cousins who, after securing her in Ireland as a three-year-old, hunted the mare with the Vale of Lune and won a hurdle race before parting with her.

It is not often that a mare reaches the top class as a steeplechaser, but Bramble Tudor's 18 wins in 28 races is a feat of which any horse could be proud. In addition to this, she has a fast, carefree style of jumping with great courage and stamina. — Reutersphoto.

## Royal H.K. Defence Force Orders

Serial No. 8. Orders by Colonel L. T. Rilde, CBE, ED, Commandant, Royal Hongkong Defence Force. Dated February 21, 1956.

## Force Orders

Annual Review.—The Annual Review of the HKDF by H.E. the Hon. Commander will take place at the Hongkong Stadium at 10.30 a.m. Sunday, March 11, 1956. Full parade rehearsals will be held as follows: Dress for the Army units on Thursday March 1, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Navy units on Friday March 2, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Air Force units on Saturday March 3, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Police on Sunday March 4, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Fire Brigade on Monday March 5, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Civil Service on Tuesday March 6, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Railway on Wednesday March 7, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Waterworks on Thursday March 8, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Electric on Friday March 9, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Telephone on Saturday March 10, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Gas on Sunday March 11, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Harbour on Monday March 12, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Dock on Tuesday March 13, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Ship on Wednesday March 14, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Boat on Thursday March 15, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Fish on Friday March 16, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Bird on Saturday March 17, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Insect on Sunday March 18, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Plant on Monday March 19, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Mineral on Tuesday March 20, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. Dress for the Hongkong Metal on Wednesday March 21, 1956, at the Hongkong Stadium. 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## TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

★ RECOVERY ENDS: COLONY SHARE PRICES TAKE SHARP DIP ★

## Bank Rate Fears Cause Slide In Market

By A Special Correspondent

The market recovery ended last week with fears that some Hongkong banks might raise borrowing rates again following the increase in the British bank rate. And this week the share market took a sharp downturn.

The decline hit all sections of the market. But the movements in Hongkong stand in odd contrast to the trend in London where the market seems firmer.

The information that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has given me and a number of brokers in Lee House Street is that it is not going to increase its borrowing rates "at the moment".

That last sinister addition and the inference that can be drawn from it is the one that is worrying some brokers.

It would be quite wrong, I feel, to say that one should draw that inference from the statement. The qualification is undoubtedly safeguarded in the bank's words some time in the future that it has to put up borrowing rates.

## Discouraging Effect

But as long as the threat remains over the market it is likely to have some discouraging effect upon demand.

Pity, because not only was the market doing well but there was another good dividend announcement this week — Hongkong Tramways.

Ostensibly, the final dividend is lower than last year's. The figures published in the Press show this year's final as \$1.25 against last year's \$1.30. But the difference that should have been made was that last year's final was "less tax" whereas this figure is "net" or tax free, as required by a recent ordinance.

So that means Tramways have raised their dividend by approximately 1 1/4 cents, as bankers predicted in this column a couple of weeks ago.

## A Good Utility

I have not heard any of Tramways' figures for the year, but let's have a look at 1954's. Profit was given at \$5,100,015 (in 1953, \$5,016,915) and dividends absorbed \$4,350,938 (in 1953, \$4,095,000). This year's distribution will take up (including the 35-cent net interim) \$4,680,000 which rather suggests that profit will be in the region of \$5 1/2 million.

The reported intention of the company is to build up the dividend gradually to its pre-war level of \$2.40 (less tax) or a net figure of about \$2.10. And if this is so then shareholders can expect a gradual increase of 50 cents in the distribution in the few years.

Yield now stands at 6.4 per cent — a good utility this.

China Lights announce they are calling up \$2 on the \$3 contributing or partly paid shares to make them rank equally with the \$5 fully paid. This explains the evening-up trend that took place in the two shares this week. One lost 90 cents, and the other gained 30 cents.

## Land Dividend

The rather elaborate finance plan which some brokers thought China Lights were preparing and which was published in some detail in this column as "supposition in the market" — although well meant and rather ingeniously and tidily thought out — did not eventuate.

Hongkong Land and Investment announce a \$3.50 (net) dividend for the year which is the same as last year's (\$4 less tax). The final announced last night was \$1.75 (net). To this should be added an interim of \$2 less tax (\$1.75 net) to make up the total.

Last year's profit was \$6.0 million. I have not heard any figures for this year's profit.

I think the Land dividend will measure up to most investors' expectations. The share is down \$1 1/2 on last week's rate, but this is due to the general mar-

ket decline and not, I think, any disappointment over the dividend news.

Another dividend — Hotel's — is due shortly, and judging from the speculation yesterday the market is expecting a generous hand-out. They paid \$1 last year. Before that it was 65 cents. The hope is that a bonus will accompany this year's distribution from that proceeds of the sale of the Pedder Street site.

## Telephones Wobbly

Electric, following the announcement of its dividend and issue, fell back \$1.75 this week. Telephones were rather wobbly and lost \$2 1/2 on the week to close at \$32.

In fact, the only utility to keep steady was Star Ferry which held steady with sellers adding \$1 1/2 and no buyers.

Banks and Unions are well down on the week. Banks lost \$50 and Unions, \$30. The reason for the fall in Banks is possibly to be found in the London market where the share has declined 30/- to \$95 1/2 since last Thursday. But Unions have kept steady at \$91.

The only regularly traded share (apart from Lights) to buck the market trend was HK Docks which shows a rise of 25 cents to \$34 buyers on the week. Sellers were holding out for \$34 1/2 yesterday so the share may go higher before there is a sale.

## Rubber Prices Up

Whichever held steady at \$72, but Providents dropped back to \$14.75 down 75 cents which is a large fall for a share of that size.

Raw rubber prices have taken another sharp dip — they are down to 65 1/2 cents now — and this sent rubber share prices down on the Hongkong market. Yesterday more than 44,000 Armaunatic shares changed hands at \$1.65. On Wednesday more than 12,000 changed hands at prices ranging from \$1.60 to \$1.67 1/2. With the heavy selling on the market this week, the turnover rose sharply to \$1,250,000 which is the highest this year. Of the 29 shares in the adjoining panel, only four were higher, six were steady and 19 were lower.

## GENERAL MOTORS RECORD

New York, Feb. 22. General Motors Corp. smashed all previous records in 1955, chalking up record earnings of \$1,189,477,000 on peak sales of \$12,443,277,000. Its annual report showed today.

Although auto demand is expected to dip slightly, 1956 "should be another good year for General Motors," President Harlow H. Curlee and Chairman Alfred P. Sloan told stockholders.

Last year's earnings marked the first time any corporation has topped the 1 billion level in net income.

The two executives noted that 1 billion will be spent on new plants and equipment in 1956.

## London Foreign Exchange

New York, Feb. 22. London, Feb. 22. 2:00 PM (2:00 PM-12:15 PM)

New York	100.00
Montreal	100.00
Amsterdam	100.00
Frankfurt	100.00
Paris	100.00
Brussels	100.00
Geneva	100.00
Zurich	100.00

Others were unchanged — United Press.

## ★ The Share Market At A Glance ★

	Jan 20	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 23	Up or down
HK Bank	1750s	1750	1775	1800	1750	-50
Lombard	87	85b	85 1/2b	85 1/2b	87	+20c
Union	995	990b	1005b	1010	980	-30
Underwriters	9.40n	9.40n	9.20m	9.10b	9.10b	-20c
Union Wharf	24b	24 1/2b	25.10b	25.10b	25b	+20c
Wheelock	8.40	8.55	8.50	8.55	8.75a	+10c
HK Wharf	70	70 1/2b	71n	72	72	steady
HK Dock	32 1/2	33b	33 1/2	33 1/2	34b	+25c
Provident	16.20	15.20b	15 1/2	15 1/2	14.75m	-75c
HK Hotels	17.20b	17.40	18.10	18	17.50	-10c
HK Land	92	92	92	92	92	steady
Humphreys	10.70n	10.70n	20s	19.75m	19.75m	-1 1/2
HK Realty	1.975n	2.05	1.60bxa	1.625	1.625	-10c
HK Ferry	24.40	25	25.10	25.50	25	-30c
Star Ferry	133b	140b	143	144	145	steady
Yamath	103b	105	106	108	104	-4
Ch Lights (o)	22.30	22	22.70	22.70	21.80	-90c
Ch Lights (n)	16.40	16.60	16.40	16.60	16.10	+30c
Electric	43 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2	45	43 1/2	-17 1/2
HK Telephone	33 1/2	33 1/2	34 1/2	34 1/2	32	-2 1/2
G.I. Cement	30 1/2	37 1/2	39	39 1/2	38 1/2m	-1
Dairy Farm	18.70	18.40	18.60	18	17.40	-60c
A.S. Watson	12.10	12.80	12.75m	12.70	12.00n	-10c
Lane Crawford	34 1/2b	35 1/2b	35 1/2	36n	36n	steady
Yankee	6.50b	6.50b	6.00b	7	7n	steady
Allied	5.50b	5.50b	5.50	5.60a	5.55a	-10c
HK & FE Inv	11.60	11.50	11.50	11.40b	11.30m	-10c
Textile Corp	5 1/2b	5.60	5.60a	5.50	5.35	-15c
Nanyang	7.80a	7.80n	7.60b	7.75b	7.70n	steady

## TODAY'S SHARE PRICES

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Hongkong Stock Exchange this morning amounted to approximately \$780,000. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

## SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS	HK Bank	1740	1750	50	230
INSURANCES	Underwriters	9.10			
DOCKS, ETC	HK Wharf	72	73		
	Provident	34 1/2			
	(Old)	15	500	14.80	
LAND, ETC	HK Hotel	17.70	17.80	1500	17.50
	HK Land	91 1/2	92 1/2	700	92
	(Old)	200	200	92	
	(New)	91 1/2			
	Humphreys	10.70			

## RUBBER

A Rubber 1.05 1.70 1037 @ 1.65

## UTILITIES

Trans 2.00

Yankee 1.03 1.05

C. Light (O) 21.60 21.80 500 @ 21.70

C. Light (N) 18.90 19 1200 @ 19.10

Electric 43 43 1/2 300 @ 43 1/2

Electric 43 43 1/2 300 @ 43 1/2

Macao Electric 9.50 9.55

(Old) 9.50

(New) 31 1/2 32 1/2 1000 @ 32

Telephone 31 1/2 32 1/2 1000 @ 32

## INDUSTRIALS

Cement 38 1/2 39 300 @ 38 1/2

Cement 38 1/2 39 300 @ 38 1/2

Cement 38 1/2 39 300 @ 38 1/2

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## WORLD RUBBER MARKETS

New York, Feb. 23.

The No. 1 RSS rubber futures contract today closed 10 to 45 points lower with sales of 513 contracts.

The Standard contract closed 30 points lower to 15 points higher with sales of 19 contracts.

Speculative operating brought erratic fluctuations in the terminal market, while the outside market remained slow in the absence of factory buying interest.

Futures dropped as much as a cent a pound on the forenoon slump, then steadied at the close under covering operations and buying on technical reasons.

In the shipment market, a small tonnage of flat bark rubber sold for Feb-March shipment from Indonesia at 20 cents a pound, cost and freight.

Spot No. 1 RSS sheets were quoted nominal 3 1/2 cents a pound.

## No. 1 RSS Old

March 32.85

May 32.50-55

July 31.80-90

Sept 31.50

Dec 30.90-31.00

## New Standard contract

March 32.00

May 31.50

July 31.00

Sept 30.50

Dec 30.00

## SINGAPORE

The market steadied on short covering after an easy opening, but trade and factory interest was poor. There was heavy selling towards the close for overseas accounts which caused a sharp drop. At the close there was little support. Futures: No. 1 rubber per lb. Mar. 65 1/2-65 3/4, Apr. 65 1/2-65 3/4, May 65 1/2-65 3/4, June 65 1/2-65 3/4, July 65 1/2-65 3/4, Aug. 65 1/2-65 3/4, Sept. 65 1/2-65 3/4, Oct. 65 1/2-65 3/4, Nov. 65 1/2-65 3/4, Dec. 65 1/2-65 3/4.

## LONDON

The market was steady with spot quoted at 28 pence per lb.

Prices: No. 1 rubber per lb. Mar. 28-29 1/2, Apr. 28-29 1/2, May 28-29 1/2, June 28-29 1/2, July 28-29 1/2, Aug. 28-29 1/2, Sept. 28-29 1/2, Oct. 28-29 1/2, Nov. 28-29 1/2, Dec. 28-29 1/2.

## NEW YORK

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot 36.50

Mar. 36.50

May 36.50

July 36.50

Sept 36.50

Dec 36.50

Total 22,800, 1,400,000 bales

## NEW ORLEANS

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot 35.50

Mar. 35.50

May 35.50

July 35.50

Sept 35.50

Dec 35.50

Total 22,800, 1,400,000 bales

## LIVERPOOL

Future closings in pence per lb. were as follows:

Old contract Mar/Apr 35.50

May/June 35.50

July/Aug 35.50

Sept/Oct 35.50

Nov/Dec 35.50

Total 22,800, 1,400,000 bales

## SAO PAULO

Future closings in cruzeiros per kilo were as follows:

March 27.50

May 27.50

July 27.50

Sept 27.50

## NY COTTON FUTURES STEADY

New York, Feb. 23.

Cotton futures today opened higher and maintained a steady to firm undertone for the rest of the session.

In a spasmodically active post-holiday dealings gains ranged up to around \$1.25 a bale with most of the interest centred in old crop months.

At the close the list ruled off 2 to up 27 points. The market opened off 1 to up 6 points. New Orleans closed off 2 to up 27 points.

Activity in deferred deliveries was hampered while buyers and sellers waited for the farm legislation picture to come into clearer focus.

The nearby July delivery showed relative strength, ruling there was credited to trade accounts and commission houses, plus some scattered investment buying. The discount of 1 1/2 cents a pound under the current March contract, and possibility for a tight end-supply situation on "free" cotton, encouraged the buying.

March contracts remained generally fastened at the 35.77 cent level. Although today was first notice day, no tenders appeared scattered covering operations were supplied through the sale of upwars of 10,000 bales by spot interests.

Open March contracts at the start of trading today totalled 97,200 bales. The smallest open position in a spot month in many years, traders said. The certificated stock declined 605 bales to 631 bales, the lowest for the year and a decline of over 8,000 bales since Jan. 1.

Volume and open interest were:

## Volume Open Interest

March 22,800 42,100

May 20,900 42,100

July 20,900 42,100

Sept 20,900 42,100

Dec 20,900 42,100

Total 22,800, 1,400,000 bales

## NEW YORK

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot 36.50

Mar. 36.50

May 36.50

July 36.50

Sept 36.50

Dec 36.50

Total 22,800, 1,400,000 bales

## NEW ORLEANS

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot 35.50

Mar. 35.50

May 35.50

July 35.50

Sept 35.50



